[25th April 1960

Liquor permits

452 *Q.*—**திரு. பி. எஸ். சின்னதுரை :** கனம் உள்விவகார அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் தயவுசெய்து கீழ்க்கண்ட கேள்விக்குப் பதில் அளிப்பாரா—

1958-ம் ஆண்டில் மதுபான பர்மிட் வைத்திருந்தவர்களின் எண்ணிக்கை என்ன ? ஜில்லா வாரியாக?

A.—A statement[a] showing the districtwise number of persons to whom liquor permits were issued during the year 1958 is placed on the table of the House.

Artesian wells

453 *Q.*—Sri K. R. VISWANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the District Collector has recommended a scheme for sinking 50 artesian and sub-artesian wells in Udayarpalayam taluk ; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken on the report of the Collector ?

A.—(*a*) Proposals for sinking 50 artesian wells in Udayarpalayam taluk have been received from the Director of Agriculture and not from the Collector of Tiruchirappalli.

(*b*) The proposals are under examination.

II.—ANNOUNCEMENTS.

(1) Nomination of Council Members to the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

Mr. SPEAKER : I have to announce to the House that the Legislative Council has nominated the following three members of the Council to associate with the Committee on Subordinate Legislation of the Assembly for the financial year 1960-61 :—

Sri M. SESHACHARIAR.
Sri L. S. KARAYALAR.
Sri S. P. SIVASUBRAMANYA NADAR.

III.—CALLING ATTENTION TO AN ACCIDENT IN THE PARAMBIKULAM PROJECT AREA.

Mr. SPEAKER : I have received notice that Sri P. S. Chinnadurai will call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Works to a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the accidental death of seven workers in the Parambikulam Project area. Sri P. S. Chinnadurai will now speak.

Sri P. S. CHINNADURAI : மதிப்பிற்குரிய சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, பரம்பிக்குளத் திட்டப் பிரதேசத்தில் வேலை செய்துகொண்டிருந்த தொழிலாளர்களில் 7 பேர்கள், அங்கு திடீரென ஏற்பட்ட மண் சரிவினால் இறந்திருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் திடீரென விபத்துக்கு ஆளாக்

a Printed as Appendix X on page 398 infra.

[Sri P. S. Chinnadurai]

கப்பட்டிருந்த போதிலும், அவர்களுக்கு உரிய நஷ்ட ஈட்டையாவது கொடுக்க சர்க்கார் முன்வர வேண்டுமென்பதுதான் என்னுடைய இப்போதைய கோரிக்கையாகும். அந்த விபத்து எப்படி நேர்ந்தது, அதனை அங்கிருந்த அதிகாரிகளால் தடுக்க முடிந்திருக்குமா, முடிந்திருக்காதா என்பதைப் பற்றி எல்லாம் கனம் அமைச்சர் தம் அறிக்கையில் குறிப்பிட வேண்டுமென்று நான் எதிர்பார்க்கிறேன். எனக்குத் தெரிந்த வரையில், அங்கே விபத்து நடந்ததற்கு முந்தைய நாள்தான் மழை பெய்திருந்தது என்றும், அங்கிருந்த சூபர்வைசர்களும் என்ஜினீயர்களும் சற்று கவனமாக இருந்திருப்பார்களானால், விபத்து தடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்க முடியும் என்றும் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. இருந்தாலும் அது குறித்து நானாக ஒரு திட்டவட்டமான முடிவுக்கு வரமுடியாதவனாக இருக்கிறேன். எப்படியும் நேர்ந்த விபத்து நேர்ந்துவிட்டது. அந்த விபத்தில் உயிரிழந்த தொழிலாளர்களின் குடும்பங்களுக்கு தக்கபடி உதவி அளிக்க சர்க்கார் முன்வந்தால்தான் அந்தத் திட்டப் பிரதேசத்தில் தொழிலாளர்கள் வேலை செய்யத் தைரியமாகவும், பயமின்றியும் முன்வரக் கூடும். அதற்கு அரசாங்கம் என்ன ஏற்பாடு செய்திருக்கிறது என்று நான் அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்.

The Hon. Sri P. KAKKAN : Preliminary works such as construction of quarters for staff and workers, laying of new roads, improvement to existing roads leading to dam site, etc., connected with the Parambikulam Project are now being executed by the Special staff sanctioned for the purpose. On 5th March 1960, at the top of the hill, about 4 miles from Tunacadavu bridge an accident occurred along the new road leading to the Parambikulam dam. The contractor, Sri K. Raju, with about 25 labourers, was doing work at the ridge near the hair pin bend. While the labourers carrying earth were moving along, a slab of the earth at the adjoining portion, where no work was being done, slipped and all the labourers except seven, who were caught underneath, ran away. On hearing the news, the Executive Engineer, Parambikulam Division, rushed to the spot and arranged for immediate removal of the earth to extricate the persons beneath the slipped earth. On extrication, the lives of all the seven, five men and two women, were found extinct.

After a detailed examination of the incident, it is reported that soil cover at the place of the accident is only about 3 feet below which lies a thick layer of disintegrated rock which can be removed only with pick axes. As usual, while excavating the disintegrated rock, the sides were kept slightly inclined to the vertical as the soil texture is firm and could stand with its face almost vertical without slipping and sliding unlike earth. The sliding is, however, reported to have occurred due to the existence of a hidden vertical joint at a distance of about four feet from the face which could not be seen from the side. The slip occurred along this vertical joint and the slab of the disintegrated rock slided and slipped scattering the earth cover on the top surface all over the place with the result the victims of the accident were actually caught underneath the slab of the disintegrated rock. The Special Chief Engineer (Parambikulam-Aliyar Project) also inspected the site and found that the land slide was only accidental.

The Madras Detailed Standard Specifications provide necessary instructions and guidance to the staff as well as to the contractors who take up works of the Public Works Department. In addition to these, the Special Chief Engineer (Parambikulam-Aliyar Project)

[Sri P. Kakkan]

has already issued instructions both in English and in Tamil, regarding the safety measures and engineering guidance to be followed by the staff to avert accidents. All possible safety measures and engineering guidance had been already there and there was no failure on the part of the Department. The present mishap was only providential and was not due to any lack of precautions.

It is reported that the Contractor, who had engaged the deceased labourers, has paid compensation to the families of three deceased workers at the rate of Rs. 100. The accident had been reported to the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation for taking further action in the matter in accordance with the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.

IV.—ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS:

(1) FAILURE TO SETTLE THE DISPUTE BETWEEN ELECTRICITY WORKERS IN KUNDAH AND THE ELECTRICITY BOARD.

MR. SPEAKER : I have received notice of an adjournment motion from the hon. Member Sri N. K. Palanisami with regard to a matter of what he thinks urgent public importance, viz., the "failure of the Government to settle the dispute between the Electricity workers in Kundah and the State Electricity Board which resulted in lathi charge and the arrest of workers and the Secretary of the National Project Workers' Union, Kundah". I have already ruled a similar motion out of order a few days ago. I would like to remind the hon. Members in this connection that Rule 50 (viii) clearly lays the restriction, viz., "The matter to be discussed must involve more than the ordinary administration of the law." Surely, maintenance of law and order cannot be made the subject-matter of an adjournment motion to be discussed on the floor of this House. I agree with the hon. Members that it is unfortunate that there are labour-management differences. But, how to solve those differences is the question. There are other ways to settle those disputes and differences. There is conciliation, there is the Tribunal, there are the Labour Officers, there is the High Court and there is also the Supreme Court. This Assembly cannot be made the forum for settling labour-management disputes. I have been repeating this time and again. But, the hon. Members do not seem to appreciate my difficulties in the matter. If the hon. Members repeat this practice, I am sorry I will rule such motions out of order in my Chamber itself and will not bring those motions before the House and also will not read them to the House. I rule the motion out of order.

(2) LOCK-OUT IN THE PARAVAI MILLS, MADURAI.

MR. SPEAKER: I have also received notice of another adjournment motion from the hon. Member Sri V. K. Kothandaraman to discuss a matter of what he thinks urgent public importance, viz., the lock-out in the Paravai Mills, Madurai, and the consequent unrest among the workers. Rule 50 (x) lays down the restriction that the "motion must refer to a matter in which the responsibility of the Government is clearly involved". How can we say that the Government are responsible for the lock-out in a private mill ? What I have stated in respect of the other motion applies to this case also. The Assembly cannot be made a forum for settling labour-management disputes. Therefore, I rule this motion also out of order. I must